

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

In the Matter of)

Allocation of Spectrum in the 5 GHz Band) RM-8648
To Establish a Wireless Component of the) RM-8653
National Information Infrastructure)

COMMENTS OF COMPAQ COMPUTER CORPORATION

Pursuant to Section 1.405 of the Commission's rules, Compaq Computer Corporation ("Compaq") urges the Commission to create a "wireless platform" for broadband, computer-based multimedia applications, as requested in the petitions for rulemaking filed by Apple Computer Inc. (RM-8653) and WINForum (RM-8648). Compaq shares the views of these two petitioners that the allocation of spectrum for this purpose will measurably advance full deployment of the National (and Global) Information Infrastructure.

Although the petitions before the Commission differ in certain specifics, both rest upon a common vision of the central importance of unlicensed, wireless service in the emerging National Information Infrastructure ("NII"). WINForum is entirely correct in its assessment that the "realities of multimedia and advanced computing technology" are upon us and that "wireless access" to digital networks has increasingly come to be recognized as "powerful and needed tool . . . in all sectors of work and life."^{1/} As Apple

^{1/} WINForum Petition for Rulemaking at 2.

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points out, given the highly flexible nature of the NII, unlicensed wireless technology can serve public needs that "cannot be met at all through alternative technologies."^{2/} There is also need for service which "bridges the existing gap" between wired and wireless worlds.^{3/} Whether it be labeled "SUPERNet" or "NII Band," unlicensed, wireless computer-based multimedia service (combining video, quality graphics, high speed data with voice in an interactive mode) will be of enormous value to all Americans -- in education, in industrial settings, in the work place and in the home. The allocation of spectrum for use as proposed in these petitions will enable all Americans to inexpensively and fully use the NII. The proposed allocation will plainly serve the public interest.

It is also clear that the uses to which the spectrum at 5 GHz will be put differs-- not in degree --but in kind from "Data-PCS." Like Apple, Compaq was an active participant in the proceedings resulting in the allocation of spectrum for Data-PCS. As Apple correctly observes, the value of this service cannot be "understated."^{4/} However, the Data-PCS allocation of 20 MHz at two widely separated points in the band is also subject to substantial constraints -- both in terms of the amount of band width and the needs for operating protocols to accommodate other users of the same spectrum -- that makes this spectrum unsuitable for multimedia computer based applications. The essence of the proposals now before the Commission is the creation of a wholly new service, providing broadband capacity that meets the needs of emerging multimedia computer

^{2/} Apple Petition for Rulemaking at 9.

^{3/} WINForum Petition at 2.

^{4/} Apple Petition at 13.

tools. These proposals do not simply seek more spectrum for Data-PCS. As Apple succinctly points out, the spectrum sought will not only enable Americans to do conventional tasks more rapidly, but to use computers and computing devices "to do things not previously possible."⁵

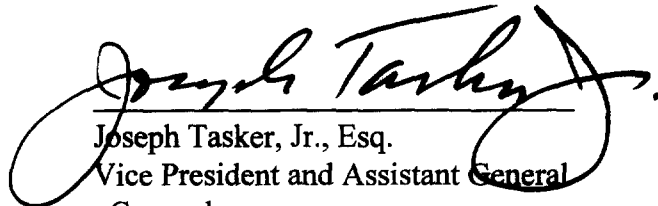
The proposed allocation at 5GHz also serves broader public interest goals. As the petitioners point out, the concept of a wireless platform in the band proposed will permit deployment of wireless multimedia applications in the United States in ways that are consistent with the broadband wireless capacity being developed in Europe through HIPERLAN. The American economy, and our leadership position in the world markets for computers and computing applications, will be preserved and enhanced. The petitions further demonstrate that the wireless platforms envisioned in this band are consistent with the requirements of other spectrum users. In short, the spectrum is well-suited for the intended uses and, as intended, will bring this country closer to full realization of the vision that underlies the NII.

Compaq recognizes that the specific spectrum allocations requested by Apple and WINForum differ. For their part, both parties recognize that there will be need for appropriate technical and operating rules that promote and protect equitable access to this band. Both urge that these operational rules and protocols be remitted largely to the private sector. Compaq agrees. We are equally confident that the other differences between these two petitions -- particularly in terms of the spectrum to be allocated -- can and will be resolved through informal discussions. For present purposes, it suffices to

⁵/ Id. at 16.

observe that the public will greatly benefit from these proposals, the spectrum proposed for allocation for a wireless NII platform is suitable for the intended uses, is generally compatible with the needs of other spectrum users, and is not duplicative of other allocations. Compaq therefore joins Apple and WINForum in urging that the Commission designate these petitions for rulemaking on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Tasker, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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July 10, 1995

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing Comments of Compaq
Computer Corporation to be mailed by first-class mail, postage prepaid, this 10th day of
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sheri A. Blue", followed by a horizontal line.

Sheri A. Blue